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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CONVENTION
OF THE
SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF



HELD AT CORINTHIAN HALL, SYRACUSE.

JUNE 20th, AND 21st, 1864.

TOGETHER WITH

ADDRESSES DELIVERED BY

GEN. JAMES W. NYE, AND HON. HARVEY BALDWIN,

IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CLAIMS.

—♦♦♦—
SYRACUSE, N. Y.

EDWARD HOOGLAND, PRINTER:

DAILY REPUBLICAN AND NATIONAL STAR OFFICE

1864.

Harvey Baldwin - Gen. J. W. Nye

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RECEPTION OF THE VETERANS OF THE WAR OF 1812,

AT SYRACUSE, JUNE 20, 1854.

MORNING GUN AT SUNRISE.—REVEILLE.—THIRTEEN GUNS AT 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ A. M.



The Soldiers of the War of 1812—'15, to the number of nearly 1100 men having previously reported themselves at the Head Quarters of Major General ELIAS W. BENSON, at the Globe Hotel, pursuant to the order of the day, assembled at the City Hall a 9 1-2 A. M., and as soon thereafter as practicable, those who were not too aged and infirm to participate in the march were formed into line on Montgomery street, right resting on Genesee street, in the following order :

1. Major Gen. E. W. Benson and Staff.
2. Visiting Officers of the War of 1812.
3. Veteran Troops.
4. Delegation of Indians who served in the war.

Meanwhile, the 51st Regiment, Lieut. Col. R. M. RICHARDSON, by request commanding together with detachments from Regiments stationed at Utica and Auburn, having formed in line near Fayette Park, the Veteran Column, passed the receiving troops, at 'Present Arms' and halted on the north side of the park.

Lieut. Col. RICHARDSON's whole force then moved along in front of the Old Soldiers, who returned the "Present Arms" with the usual recognition.

The Procession was then formed, the Veteran Corps breaking in sections eight deep, and with auxiliaries, moving to the right in the following order :

Lieut. Col. R. M. RICHARDSON and Staff.
SAMUEL'S BAND.

Citizen's Corps, Capt. WALRATH, : : : Syracuse.
Seymour Artillery, Capt. MYERS, : : : Utica.
LaFayette Guards, Capt. LESTER, : : : Syracuse.
National Guards, Capt. DOWNS, : : : "
Shield's Guards, Capt. SKALLY, : : : Auburn.
Washington Artillery, Capt. ROUSSEL, Syracuse.

MARTIAL MUSIC.

VETERANS of 1812, under command of
Major Gen. BENSON,
Maj. Gen. BROWN and } Assisting by
Col. ADAMS, of his staff. } request.
Gen. C. C. RICHARDSON and Staff, by invitation,
aiding in the escort.

Indian allies of 1812, of the six Nations, Onondagas, Senecas, Oneidas, Mohawks, Tuscororas, and Delawares, and widows of deceased warriors, (among the latter one aged 116 years.)

The Clergy, Mayor and Common Council of Syracuse, County and City officers, invited guests, citizens, &c.

The whole force then moved along and through Grape, Genesee, Onondaga and Salina streets, to CORINTHIAN HALL, where the Old Soldiers proceeded to transact the business of their Convention.

The Hall presented a magnificent appearance and was densely crowded. Some of the old veterans had upon their persons mementoes of their old campaigns, such as epaulets, cartridge boxes, swords, sashes, &c.

Upon the platform were some 25 or 30 gray-headed men, officers of the war of 1812, officers of the several corps forming the escort, and a large number of invited guests, including widows of deceased veterans.

HEAD QUARTERS, SYRACUSE HOUSE, }
No. 18, June 21, 1854.

The undersigned having inspected the column and witnessed the parade of Lieut. Col. R. M. RICHARDSON's command, escorting the Soldiers of the War of 1812, on the 20th inst., deems it proper to express to the officers and men his gratification at their fine appearance, and entire

approval of their soldierly bearing and brotherly courtesy on that occasion.

J. B. BROWN, Insp. 24th
Brigade, N. Y. S. M.

(*) It is due to the Escort to give the following proceedings of the Preliminary Meeting, when the Military gentlemen of Syracuse and vicinity gallantly volunteered their assistance, and also express the thanks of the officers of the Convention in behalf of their Companions-in-Arms, to General C. C. RICHARDSON, and his staff, and to the officers and men composing the command of Lieut. Col. RICHARDSON, for their kindness, attention and courtesy.)

MILITARY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Staff officers of the 24th Brigade, and the Line and Staff officers of the 51st Regiment, held at the office No. 4, Malcolm Block, Friday, May 26th, at 7 o'clock P. M., on motion, Maj. J. B. Brown was called to the Chair, and Capt. J. G. BIGELOW appointed Secretary.

On taking the Chair, Maj. Brown briefly stated the object of the meeting to be for the purpose of adopting a plan for co-operating with the soldiers of 1812 in their contemplated Convention to be held in this city on the 20th of June next. He had had an interview with Gen. BENSON on the subject, who had informed him that from 200 to 300 of the veterans of 1812 might be expected to be here on that occasion, and he thought it entirely proper that the military of Syracuse should receive them in a manner worthy of the old defenders of the Republic. In paying honors to them, we should be winning fresh laurels for ourselves.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That this meeting hereby recommend to the commandants of the 24th Brigade and of the 51st and 52nd Regiments to appear with their commands on the 20th of June, on parade in this city to receive the soldiers of 1812.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That Gen RICHARDSON, Maj. DILLAYE, and Captains PAIGE, WELLS, HAWLEY, BIGELOW and HOVEY be appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions to defray the expenses of the reception.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That Col. RICHARDSON, Maj. BROWN and Lieut. HEERMANS, be appointed a committee to devise and execute measures for carrying out the objects of this meeting and the approaching Convention.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

LETTERS.

New York, May 12, 1854.

DEAR SIR:

I am sorry that pressing engagements will deprive me of the pleasure of meeting my brothers-in-arms, of the War of 1812-15, who are expected to assemble at Syracuse, on the 20th of the next month; but my best wishes and kindest regards will be with you.

I need scarcely add that any petition to Congress, the meeting may agree upon, shall receive all the influence, however small, it may be in my power to exert in its behalf.

I remain, dear sir,

Truly yours,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Maj. Gen. E. W. BENSON, }
Col. H. OLDS, }
Aid-de-camp, &c. &c. }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES }
WASHINGTON, May 10th, 1854. }

DEAR SIR:

I am sorry that I cannot be with you, at Syracuse, on the 20th June. But I shall be with you *here*; and *here* is where you need friends. And, at your next Legislative and Congressional election, you must take particular pains to see that none but your friends are sent *here*.

Let the Soldiers of the War of 1812 speak and act as a unit at the polls in favor of a pension, in favor of their just rights, and a bill with provisions similar to the one introduced by myself, will soon be the law of the land.

You ought, gentlemen, to get resolutions not only through your Legislature, but also through all your political conventions, in favor of your measure. Indeed, allow no man, under any circumstances, to receive the suffrages of the soldiers, who is not in favor of placing them upon the pension roll! Indeed, let every soldier be true to himself at the polls, and another Congress will not adjourn before he will find himself upon the Pension Roll.

I have the honor to be,

Your Ob't Serv't,

JOHN WENTWORTH.

Maj. Gen. E. W. BENSON, }
Fabius, N. Y. }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES }
WASHINGTON, May 15, 1854. }

DEAR SIR:

I have received your circular inviting me to meet with the veterans of the War of 1812 at Syracuse on the 20th of June. Be pleased to say to them that nothing would give me greater pleasure than to be with them on that occasion; but, a stern sense of duty compels me to be here at my post.

This is all I need say to the surviving veterans of that war, for, where duty called, there were they always found.

I only ask that our endeavors may be in the end as successful as were theirs.

I have presented to Congress during this session a large number of petitions from the citizens of Onondaga, asking Congress to pass a law to reward those who sacrificed their time and health in that war. I hope and trust they will not be disappointed.

I am, dear sir,

Your Ob't Serv't,

D. T. JONES.

Col. H. OLDS, Syracuse, N. Y.

THE CONVENTION.

CORINTHIAN HALL, JUNE 20, 1854.

At a quarter before two o'clock, Maj. Gen BENSON called the Convention to order.

Prayer by Rev. WM. BLISS ASHLEY, Chaplain 61st Regiment.

On motion Capt. HARVEY BULDWIN, was chosen President, and the following gentlemen

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Maj. Gen. E. W. BENSON,	Onondaga co,
Gen. HENRY STORMS,	Westchester co,
Gen JOHN S. VAN RENSSELAER,	Albany co,
Gen ABNER WOODWORTH,	Yates co,
Gen T. MATCHIN	Montgomery co.
Col. H. OLDS,	Onondaga co,
Col JOHN STEVENS,	Onondaga co,
Col JOSIAH HARVEY,	Erie co,
Col PETER BANKER,	Schenectady co,
Col J. CHILDS,	Monroe co,
Col SHERMAN HOESMER,	Oswego co,
Col WM. WARREN,	Erie co,
Hon. JOSHUA SPENCER,	Cneida co.

SECRETARIES:

FD. HOOGLAND,	Syracuse	<i>Republican,</i>
M. SUMMERS,	"	<i>Standard.</i>
H. L. DINMORE,	"	<i>Chronicle,</i>
C. E. SMITH,	"	<i>Journal.</i>

THE PRESIDENT returned thanks to his fellow soldiers for their partiality towards himself, and in behalf of the citizens of Syracuse, extended to all a cordial welcome and affectionate greeting. He also referred to the objects that had called the Convention together, viz:

1. It is to further a better and more extended acquaintance with each other, and re-new our old social feelings, so cordially extended when we were companions in arms.

2. To make ourselves better acquainted with each other's residence and with our various rights and interests, and collectively to aid and assist those who, from various causes, are in need.

3. That we may be better able to ascertain the number of Soldiers now living—and Widows and Orphans of those that are dead, and to facilitate all claims they may have on the Government.

4. To appeal to the National Legislators of these United States, for such testimonials of Gratitude as would be worthy of the richest, most prosperous, enlightened and free Nation on Earth towards those who had freely given all they had, and all they were, to defend her in her season of weakness and peril.

THE PRESIDENT then introduced,

Gen. JAMES W. NYE.—Orator of the Day.

THE PRESIDENT then invited aged men and the CHIEF OF THE ONONDAGAS, to seats on the platform.

THE CHIEF made his appearance, dressed in the full War costume of his Tribe, and was greeted with loud applause, and,

MUSIC, "Hail to the Chief," by SAMSEL'S BAND.

Gen. NYE then delivered the following

ORATION.

VETERANS OF 1812,—SOLDIERS WHO FORMED THEIR ESCORT, AND CITIZENS ALL:—

In accepting your invitation to address you, I informed the Committee who tendered it, that I should draw largely upon your kind indulgence and tax to the utmost your powers of forbearance, for the manner in which it would be done.

I come now to demand the sacrifice I informed them I should expect.

The character of the gathering, its objects, its aims, all seemed to me to require that some one who shared in the perils of that bloody conflict, or one whose years reached back to that period, to make it effective and to accomplish the object for which it is intended, should have made your address. But circumstances have decreed differently, and it is as it is.

I have for a long time thought that there should be some decisive steps taken, some well digested plan adopted, some concert of action among the survivors of the War of 1812, to demand and insure success in the great undertaking of procuring and obtaining justice from what should be a grateful Government, for the services you and your comrades rendered in that memorable struggle for the rights of man.

The Revolution was completed, the brilliant achievements of that eventful struggle were fresh in the minds of our Nation, we were yet revelling in the bud of its first fruits, the notes of thanksgiving had not died away upon the lips of a happy people for their great deliverance, the thralldom of oppression was broken, the bird of liberty was just clothed in her beautiful plumage, the arms with which it was won were hung up as monuments, the blood-stained blade was beginning to rust in its scabbard, some of the actors who survived that contest so pregnant with future events were yet in their vigor, their wounds received

were now cicatriced, the last tear for their fallen comrades had been shed, the bloody field had given place to green verdure, the whitened bones of their companions had commingled with their native dust, the traces of war were fast disappearing, the exhaustion consequent upon it had spent itself, the neglected fields were again cultivated, the arm that had swung the sabre in battle was now swinging the axe, and dark forests were falling before it's power, the rich earth was giving forth its first cultivated fruits, the long neglected workshop was again tenanted, cities had sprung up, commerce was spreading its sails, our Ships were penetrating every sea, our flag and ensign were fluttering in every breeze.—All seemed to bespeak prosperity and happiness!

But hark! the wail of oppression is heard. That nation stung to its inmost soul by the loss of its colonies and by the defeat of its armies which they vainly boasted were invincible, commenced anew a series of aggressions upon individual rights, which was nothing more nor less than piracy.

She asserted the right to stop American Ships in their course, and with a band of armed marines, make search for what she called her citizens, and if any were found not having American passports, no matter of what nation, she claimed them as her subjects. This system of piracy was persisted in. The Appeals made for redress were treated with contumely, and in bold and defiant tones she asserted the right so to do.

Thus the same power, whose Lion in the Revolution had shaken his frightful mane in the faces of the impoverished Colonies and whose frightful roar in the onset, struck terror to the hearts of our fathers, but who was slain by the beak of the American Eagle, thought best to try again and redeem her lost reputation in another struggle—if not with the same coun-

batants—with their sons. The growing Commerce of the infant Republic attracted her envy. The stately tread of Yankee enterprise had aroused her jealousy, and she determined to stay it in its rivalry for the mastery of the ocean.

That nation, that knew then no maxim but right, and that respected individual as well as collective rights, that adopted the principle "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," was not deaf to the cry for succor that was heard upon the heaving deep, above the howling of the storm from its ocean prison. No, it was quick to catch its sound, and most manfully it responded to it.

Regardless of the issue (as men and nations should always be when battling for the right,) they entered the contest. An appeal was again made to arms. The cry was sent forth. It climbed every hill and echoed through every valley. The response was electrical. Bristling bayonets were seen and the roar of cannon heard in every State of the Union. The cry was, to the rescue of that priceless gift, that rich legacy our fathers had won. The old heroes again buckled on their armor. Their old eyes glistened again at an opportunity of once more facing their deadly foe. The forms of their fallen comrades in the war of the Revolution, were all marshalled in a panoramic view to their vision. Their patriotism, if it ever waned or grew cold, was enkindled again. Their influence was seen and felt. Such Veterans, was the condition of affairs when you buckled on your armor for the field. When you shook the farewell hand of aged parents, wife and children, to take the chances of eventful war, too many, alas! never more to receive the warm welcome of home but the cold and cheerless welcome of the grave.

Our fathers fought to *obtain*, you

to retain the principles of Republican Liberty. Each alike entitled to the gratitude of a free and generous people. The Government was very slow in doling out a scanty reward to the Soldiers of the Revolution, and too many of that glorious band wended their way with their scarred and enfeebled frames to the grave of poverty. Their dying groans failed to attract the attention of Government.

If complaint can be justly made of the treatment of the Soldiers of the Revolution, with much more justice can you and your comrades complain. Forty years have now passed away since the glad tidings of peace were heralded through the land. The Soldier's ear was greeted with the sound that his country no longer needed his services in that capacity. He was marshalled into his country's service full of life and youthful vigor. Too many of them were dismissed from that service, with diseased and broken constitutions, with scarcely strength remaining to draw their sickly persons back to their homes to die. They left a home of plenty, they find a home of poverty. They left a home of happiness, they find a home of sorrow.—The dilapidated buildings and the neglected fields bid them a sorrowing welcome. Loved ones they left with the bloom of health on their cheeks, are now to be seen no more forever. The inspiration incident to the hope of again meeting those fond ones left behind, has vanished with the tidings of their destruction. The poor enfeebled victim lives only to hear what chills his heart, and he too yields to the fell destroyer. He leaves, however, dependent and defenceless ones behind him, and Oh! how he is tortured in his last moments, with the reflection, that he leaves them penniless, and orphans indeed.

But, methinks I see his dying eye glisten with joy, as the thought flits through his mind, that his Country,

for which he has laid down his life, will see that his children do not want. Sleep on, thou sear-worn veteran, in that happy delusion—It comforted thee in death, and made thy dying moments sweet.

This is but a feeble picture of those who were permitted to return. But a sadder picture is in reserve. Go, count the numberless graves, on the different fields of battle. Consider for a moment, that each mound is the resting place of one or more of our countrymen, who has laid down to sleep his last sleep, with no stone or other monument to mark his individual grave. Fond friends are robbed of the melancholy satisfaction of dropping a tear over his remains. The habiliments of the poor clad soldier constituted his apparel for the grave. The wounds with which he fell, had no kind hand to bind. The life-current as it flowed had no friendly hand to staunch. The death-drops that gathered on his brow, there remained.

I sincerely hope that this united appeal to Congress for aid, will have the desired effect. That it has not been granted before, is to be greatly regretted. Here and there to a limited extent it has been done, but to the great mass, until quite recently, nothing available has been rendered. Laws were passed in 1814, amended in 1818 in this State, for the temporary relief of its local Soldiers in that war, but failed for want of the necessary appropriation to carry out their intent.—How much more preferable it would have been, if the hearts of the departed heroes of that memorable struggle could have been made to overflow with gratitude by a manly recognition of the services rendered, by the Government they so patriotically served. What a happy thing it would have been, if fatherless families had been provided for, by the Government who made them so. The Government demanded the sacrifice, it was granted.

It asked for the Soldier's blood, it was freely given. It asked for his limbs and he gave them. For what? For his Country and her honor. It asked for a sacrifice of his business interest, it was yielded. It asked of him that he should exchange the indescribable happiness of domestic life, for the dangers of the Camp and the field.— He made the exchange. It told him to sever all the domestic ties, he cut them asunder at its bidding. It told him to take the last look of his children, and away to the tented field.— He looked, offered one prayer for their safety, and turned his back on his home forever.

Such sacrifices demand consideration and remuneration. By no means let the intimation be made that your services were performed for *pay*. You found then, and find now, great consolation in the reflection that you answered fully the demand your Country made. You made the sacrifices and now millions enjoy the fruit of your labor and benefit of your toils.

But that does not relieve the Government of the obligation it always owes its defenders. You, Veterans, served your Country in her weakness, —she should remember you in her strength and glory.

That struggle defended our honor at home, and gave us a lustrous name abroad. It developed the prowess of American arms as a whole and furnished some of the most striking instances of individual bravery, the world ever saw. A truly brilliant catalogue of names was added to the world's list of heroes.— Many who served in the first struggle for independence, capped the climax of their glory in the war of 1812. That war seemed to be pregnant with heroes until then unknown to fame. The bloodiest fields gave birth to them; not heroes for a day, but born for immortality. Names arose on the firmament then that will continue to shine till brilliant achievements and daring deeds cease to

attract the attention of an admiring people.

Our Country, unlike any other, depends on a Volunteer force for its defence from insurrection and invasion.— Only enough of a standing army exists to form a nucleus, around which is to gather the ready and willing volunteers, who are in fact to do the fighting of the Country. Not because they are more brave or loyal than regulars, but that they constitute the numerical force. It is a question well worthy of consideration by our Country, how is this force to be made the most available? How can she command at all times the energies of the volunteer force of our Country? Situated as we are with our immeasurable Sea-board on two Oceans and vast Lakes and mighty Rivers that divide us from other Governments, our vast Commercial intercourse, our rapid growth, all seem to admonish us that this arm of our national strength should always, with alacrity, observe the call the Country may make. The true answer to this inquiry is, the Government must be as careful of *their* interests, as the Citizens are of the Government. The obligation must be mutual. If the citizen in the hour of peril rushes to his country's standard and support, that country must remember the service rendered, and be as generous of her rewards as the Citizen in the offering he makes. Men, who serve their Country well, must be remunerated or provided for. Ours is the only Country that does not provide well for its Soldiers. Even the semi-barbarous nations make ample provision for their Soldiers and their families. I hope it will not be much longer said that this Country is less just or less grateful than others. A Republic like ours, should be the most ready to be generous. If we were poor when the services you rendered were demanded, now that we have grown rich, we should pay with interest. A vast domain unappropriated or yet unbroken is

ours. This is the fruit of the system you helped establish. Who, but the Soldier and his family should eat the bread from the Soil his own blood has enriched? How much more in the spirit of justice would that legislation be that would give each Soldier of the war of 1812, and each survivor of their families sufficient to insure, with industry, an exemption from want? It is a sad thing to see the old war worn Veteran an inmate of the Alms House, to hear him recounting to those around him, in truthful language, his exploits performed for his Country, his scarred visage lighting up as he recounts his victories, to be made more sad by the reflection that he is forgotten by the Country he served. Cruel forgetfulness! Yet how many of your comrades have been and now are left to this coldest of charity! Even in this County, almost in hearing of my voice, can instances of this kind be found. It does not seem possible that the attention of our Government has been sufficiently aroused to this point, that its ears have been open to the cry of actual misery, that comes up from our Alms Houses and the abodes of the wretched and the poor, that it has been conscious of the real sufferings of our Country's defenders. If it had, the angry discussions in the Halls of Congress would have ceased, and the harshness and acrimony there exhibited would have been awed into submission by the drafts on their humanity. Therefore this movement seems to be in exact accordance with the necessities of the times, and cannot fail to produce the desired result.

Deaf indeed must that Representative be who cannot hear the united prayer from this Convention, and kindred ones in other States. Blind indeed must he be, who cannot see with what a trembling hand some of the signatures to your petition are made. Hard must be the heart that is not moved by these

sounds and these sights. The ear that will not hear, the eye that will not see, the heart that will not melt is unfit to represent a free, noble and generous people.

The benefits of that war have not yet been fully realized, but are beginning to be seen. It was caused by impressment, and although in the Treaty of Peace, no stipulation was embodied providing against it, yet forty years have rolled away, and not a single repetition of the offence has been attempted. The nation with whom we struggled learned in the bitter school of experience that such infringements upon our rights would at all times, and under all circumstances be rebuked and punished. It taught the world whether on sea or land American arms were invincible. The bravery displayed in that war commanded the respect and admiration of the world. It developed our resources to ourselves, and gave us advantages in our Treaty, that we could have obtained in no other way. It taught monarchies the salutary lesson, that though, by their intrigues, they may arouse the savage as a foe, whose cruelties they cannot control, that though they may boast of their achievements in other lands, over a soldiery not free but hirelings, when they strike a blow against a nation that is free, against a soldiery that are Sovereigns, that in that conflict they must fall, that the banner on which is inscribed the magic word of *Freedom*, will be found waving when the conflict is over. It taught England that the Country whose freedom and free institutions were born in blood, would not shrink from baptising them in the same element.

It seems to me that notwithstanding the sectional jealousies of the times, your petition, when presented to Congress, must command attention. The cry of Sectionalism cannot be raised. Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Geor-

gia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana shared largely in the glory achieved jointly with the States of New England, New York and the Northern States and Territories. So universal was the effort, that a lip of Sectionalism would be hushed into silence. The blood of all nations flowed too freely to admit of any jealousies.

Veterans, make your petition, present it to the Representatives of a people who share so largely in the benefits of your achievements. Let petitions be presented from whatever place your comrades may be found. Let the cry come up from not only the survivors but the widows and children of your comrades. Their *husbands* and *fathers* left their services thus performed as a legacy they are richly entitled to receive.— This legacy was written in blood, and the attesting witnesses are the scars with which they fell covered. Sacred instrument and sacredly attested!

Veterans, appoint a committee to present your petitions. Let them appear before the committee that will have this question in charge and tell the simple story of the wrongs yourselves and comrades have endured. Tell them, when you entered the service of your country your locks now whitened by age and hardship were as black and shining as the raven's plumage. Tell them that on your cheek then sat the bloom of youth where now wrinkled age holds dominion. Tell them that the eye now dim, then sparkled with brightness.— Tell them that in the darkest hour of battle you thought of your country and her glory. Tell them that you turned a deaf ear to the dying groan of your brother soldier, that you shut your eyes to his gaping wounds, in the din of battle, that you listened only to the word of command of your superiors and kept your eye only on the enemy till the bloody strife ceased. Tell them you have walked among the stiffened corpses your dead comrades at night when the

pale and timid moon sought to hide her pure face as though she would not witness such scenes of woe, to find some one still lingering there on the field of the dead to whom you could administer relief or consolation. Tell them of the countless tears you have seen flow down the cheeks of aged mothers as you have borne intelligence to the home of the slain. Tell them how the old father's tears traced the scarred furrows of his revolutionary cheek. Tell them of the wild and indescribable shrieks, with which your ear has been greeted, of the *maniac* maid. Tell them as you have borne some little memento to the heart-stricken friend from the hand chilling with death on the battle field, that you have seen a grief so deep that the tear refused to start for the relief of the heart-stricken mourner. Tell them of the desolation you have seen wrought in social and domestic circles. Tell them, how many the sacrifices of that war clothed in sable garments.

If these things move them not, point to the glorious victory achieved. Ask them to go with you to Queenston's bloody heights and view the awful precipice down which our Countrymen were driven, leaping in their death struggles from rock to rock till their bruised, wounded and mutilated forms found a grave in the angry waters of Niagara.— So frightful was the spectacle that the leaping waters as they broke over those who plunged into their depths seemed to break in tear-drops over them. Ask them to go with you to the bloody Saranac and remember that, that river ran red with soldier's blood. Tell them its rapid current was stayed in its course by numberless dead and dying. Ask them to remember the bloody slaughter at Frenchtown on the river Raisin where after the surrender of our forces the ruthless savage with all his pent up cruelty was turned loose upon the prisoners who were killed, scalped and burned with all the tortures, savage,

ferocity could invent. This says the historian clothed Kentucky and Ohio in mourning.

Ask them to go with you to that field where the brave Pike offered up his life in the attack on York, where from that memorable explosion almost our entire army was annihilated. Refer them to Sacketts Harbor and Fort George.— Ask them to accompany you to the savage massacre of Fort Mimms, to look over the fields Talledegam, Enckfaw and Tohoheka. Tell them the thirsty sands of the South were surfeited with blood and blood too of our countrymen.—

Come back with them to Chippewa and Bridgewater where the American forces for the first time crossed the bayonet and beheld the bloody charge.— See the blood of our Soldiers coursing its way in rivulets upon the fields. Behold every officer engaged, slain or wounded. See the bloody obstinacy, the cool bravery, the self-sacrifice there made, and ask them if such deeds and services shall go unrewarded.

But if all this will not do, take them to the closing conflict in the drama.— Go with them to New Orleans and point them to a proud City saved, to the spot where lies interred the pride of the British army—that selected army that came to make prize of the “beauty and booty” of that city. Tell them to look at the low breast work behind which stands the inimitable and intrepid Jackson, the brave Morgan and trusty Coffee. Tell them to look at the wounds of Scott, at the grave of the lamented Worth, who passing through three wars, winning fresh laurels in all, fell a victim to disease, but who nobly fills a soldiers grave.— Tell them of a Wool, a Jessup, and a thousand other immortal names and they cannot resist the application.

Implore them, by the sacred name and memory of Tompkins, by a lively recollection of his patriotism and his sacrifice both of fame and fortune on the altar of his country, by the recollec-

tion of Perry and the bloody waters of Lake Eric—of McDonough and the crimson billows of Champlain, by the brilliant achievements of the noble Constitution and the many victories on the Ocean, when the Storm-King shrunk back to his cavern before the majesty of American arms, by the immortal Lawrence and his daring deeds and by the memory of Porter, Decatur, Bainbridge and a host of other shining names. If that should fail, show them the flag that was placed under the head of the dying Pike or this that lies before me that was wrapt around the dauntless but dying Mills. Point them to the blood stains now on its folds and if their hearts were adamant they would yield. Then and not till then will our country have done itself and you justice.

*** During the delivery of the Oration, a variety of flags, swords, bayonets and implements of bloody fight used during the war, were exhibited; among them the following:—

1. Sword of Maj. Gen. Peter B. Porter, used by him at the Sortie at Fort Erie, when he was wounded, and also at Lundy's Lane.
2. The flag spread over the body of the lamented Capt. Mills, who was shot while leaving Horse Island to get to the Fort, during the battle of Sackett's Harbor,—now stained with his blood.
3. Sword of Gen. Henry W. Dobbis, of Ontario Co., used at Lundy's Lane.
4. Plume of Gen. Ellis, of Onondaga.
5. Sword of Gen. T. M. Wood, of Onondaga Co.
6. Sword of Gen. J. N. M. Hurd, of Madison Co.
7. Sword taken from a British Officer, by Col. Denison.
8. Old musket and cartridge box, presented by Onondaga Indians,

The Oration was heartily approved and responded to from time to time by the audience, and after

Music, — — — by Samsel's Band.
Benediction, — by Rev. Wm. Bliss Ashley.

The Convention took a recess till 5 o'clock P. M.

June 20, 5 o'clock P. M.

THE PRESIDENT called the Convention to order. On Motion the following members were appointed a “Committee on Resolutions:”

Albany, John S. Van Rensselaer,
Allegany, Elias Hull,
Cattaraugus, Freeman Wilber,
Cayuga, Gen. Jacob Young,
Chautauque, Joseph Mitchell,
Chenango, James Rider,
Clinton, Col. P. B. Roberts,
Columbia, Col. William Poultney,
Cortland, James Cowan,
Chemung, Thomas Maxwell,
Dutchess, Nagis Baker,

Delaware, Col. Hezekiah Elwood,
 Erie, Orrin Lockwood,
 Essex, Andrew Hecox,
 Fulton, W. U. Chase,
 Franklin, A. B. Parmalee,
 Genesee, Wm Sheldon,
 Greene, Gen. Henry Wynkoop,
 Herkimer, Cephas Johnson,
 Jefferson, Amasa Trowbridge,
 Kings, Abram Ver Plank,
 Livingston, Daniel H Bissel,
 Madison, Lorin Hutchison,
 Munroe, Gideon Cobb,
 Montgomery, Pythagoras Whitmore,
 New York, Maj. Ryckman,
 Niagara, Asahel Scoville,
 Oneida, Elisha Pettibone,
 Onondaga, Maj. Gen. Elias W. Benson,
 Ontario, James Bogart,
 Orange, George Burnet,
 Oswego, Sherman Hosmer,
 Otsego, Benjamin Carver,
 Queens, Robert B Sutton,
 Rensselaer, Capt Robert Christie,
 Rockland, Edward Suffern,
 St. Lawrence, Warren Clark,
 Suffolk, John Satterlee,
 Saratoga, Henry Palmer,
 Schoharie, David Smith,
 Schenectady, Peter Banker,
 Seneca, Edward Dobbin,
 Steuben, John Busb,
 Tioga, Lewis Van Wart,
 Tompkins, Conrad Youngs,
 Ulster, Col. Jacob H. DeWitt,
 Washington, Wm McCauley,
 Wayne, Thos E. Dorsey,
 Westchester, Gen. Henry Storms,
 Wyoming, Col. J. Hovey,
 Yates, Abner Woodworth.

On motion, Gen. Storms, Gen. NYE and Gen. BENSON, were appointed a Committee, to prepare a memorial to be presented to Congress and to be signed individually, by the members of this Convention to-morrow morning.

On motion, the Members of the Convention were requested to furnish their names to the Acting Secretary, (E. HOGLAND,) as soon as possible, either in the Hall, or by calling at the Office of the DAILY REPUBLICAN, *Star Buildings*, and communicating the Names with the necessary information, viz:—

“Soldier’s name—Residence—Captain’s name—Term of service.”

The same to be written on cards or slips of paper and handed in, together with the names of as many of their neighbors who served in the War of 1812, as possible.

It was announced that the Committee on memorial, would meet for consultation at the Globe Hotel, at 8 P. M.

The Convention then adjourned till 10 A. M., to-morrow morning.

June 21, 10 A. M.

THE PRESIDENT having called the Convention

to order,

Maj. Gen. BENSON, as Chairman, reported the following Resolutions, which were read at his request, by

Maj. RYCKMAN, of New York, and advocated by him in an effective address, alike able, patriotic and appropriate to the occasion.

The Report was accepted, and the following Resolutions unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved.—That in view of the many acts of oppression on the part of Great Britain and particularly the search of American Vessels and the impressment of American Seamen and which rendered the war of 1812 unavoidable.—That in view of our own condition at the time of its declaration, our Treasury empty, our commerce prostrated, our sea coast and numerous Harbors blockaded, without manufactories, without credit and without any of the essential element to constitute us an independent nation save that of a people who loved their country and who were resolved to maintain it. That in view of the alacrity with which our citizen Soldiers rushed to the defence of our country after the war was declared and to the great sacrifices made by them in its behalf, and in carrying it heroically and triumphantly through to a successful and glorious termination.—

In view of the great resulting benefits of that war, the condition and respect won for us by not only the nation with whom we battled but with all other nations of the Earth. In view of the miserable compensation then made to some of our citizen Soldiers and the total neglect by our government to make any compensation to others. In view of the vast extent of our public domain and the present flourishing condition of our public Treasury and country, and in view of the fact that the Soldiers of the war of 1812, as a class are poor, all of them aged and many of them decrepit and infirm; that in view of these multiplied considerations, the country is bound by every sense of duty to discharge promptly those high and long delayed obligations to the Veteran Soldiers of 1812.

Resolved.—That in view of the large amount of public Lands owned by the United States and the liberal policy pursued by the government in reference to granting them, and in view of the liberal grants made to the Soldiers of the Revolution, when the public domain was much less than it now is and in view of the grants made to Soldiers in the Mexican war; not less than 160 acres ought to be granted to the Soldiers of 1812 for any term of service however brief and that to this amount should be added an additional allowance for the great delay now nearly half a century, on the part of the government in discharging its obligations in this respect to the Soldiers of that war.

Resolved.—That in view of the resulting benefits to the nation at large, and in view of the dangers and hardships encountered by the Soldiers of the war of 1812.—In view of the State of our finances, and especially in view of

the fact that the Soldiers of that war, are now aged and rapidly dropping away, and in view of the precedent established by Congress in reference to the Soldiers of the Revolutionary war, that all officers and Soldiers of the war of 1812 now living, and the widows of such as are deceased should be provided for by a liberal annuity to be continued during their natural lives, and that such provisions should extend to and include both the Indian and African race for services either on sea or land, who enlisted or served in that war, and who joined with the white man in defending our rights and maintaining our independence.

Resolved.—That we cordially invite the co-operation of the officers and soldiers of the war of 1812 in all the other States of the Union, that they be respectfully and earnestly requested to hold similar conventions in their own States, to call upon their respective Legislatures, to instruct their members in Congress to make just and ample provisions by grants of Land and annuities for the officers and Soldiers of 1812, and for the widows of such as are deceased and that without distinction of race or color.

Resolved.—That a State central committee be constituted, consisting of not less than thirteen in number and whose duty it shall be to take charge of the several matters embraced in these Resolutions and present them in a proper manner to the consideration of our own Legislature and Congress, and to correspond with our local committees and with the committees of other States in reference to the great and interesting objects which have called this convention and that said committee shall consist of—

Maj. Gen. E. W. Benson of Fabius.

Col. H. Olds, Syracuse.

Col. John Stevens, Elbridge.

Gen. Jacob Young of Auburn.

Col. Charles Hollister, Elisburgh Jefferson Co.

Gen. Henry Storms, of New York,

Gen. John S. VanRensselaer, of Albany.

Capt. Harvey Baldwin, of Syracuse.

Col. Josiah Hovey, Buffalo.

Gen. Abner Woodworth, Penn Yan.

Maj. S. S. Foreman, of Syracuse.

Maj. Moses D. Burnett, Syracuse.

Maj. Elias Benjamin, of De Ruyter.

Resolved.—That inasmuch as most of the counties of the State are represented, local Committees shall be appointed in each county whose duty it shall be to correspond with the State Central Committee in furthering the objects of this convention and especially in looking up all the old Soldiers of 1812 in their respective Districts, and providing for the wants of such as are poor, until provision shall be made by the government.

Resolved.—That the thanks of this convention are due to such members of our own Legislature and of Congress who have advocated our rights or expressed a sympathy in our behalf and that in the selection of future candidates to office we will have an eye to our great and long neglected interest.

Resolved.—That the thanks of this conven-

tion be presented to Gen. James W. Nye and Hon. Harvey Baldwin for their eloquent and able address; and that copies thereof be requested for publication as part of the proceedings of the convention.

Resolved.—That we tender our grateful acknowledgments to the gentlemen proprietors of the Corinthian Hall, one of the best in the City or State, and which was kindly tendered us by them without charge.

That we also tender our thanks to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Syracuse and to the Military Corps who turned out to receive us and gallantly discharged that duty; and that we desire also to express our grateful acknowledgments to the several Railroad Companies for their liberality in passing over their roads without charge the Soldiers of 1812.

Resolved.—That our thanks be presented to the President and other officers of this convention for the able manner in which they have discharged their respective duties, and that our grateful acknowledgments are specially due to Maj. Gen. E. W. Benson and Col. H. Olds, for their great labor and zeal in awakening a public interest in our behalf and in getting up this convention.

Resolved.—That the proceedings of the convention be signed by the President and Secretary and published in all the papers in the United States, friendly to our cause and will publish the same without charge.

Gen. STORMS from the Committee on memorial, reported that the resolutions adopted had superseded the necessity of their preparing the memorial contemplated. Report accepted.

THE PRESIDENT, HON. HARVEY BALDWIN, then delivered an Address to which the Convention listened with deep attention and responded with frequent manifestations of approval. It was exceedingly interesting and as an historical paper, valuable. It was practical and we doubt not will exert an important influence in furtherance of the objects of the Convention.

THE ADDRESS

of Hon. HARVEY BALDWIN, of Syracuse, to the Convention of Veterans, of 1812, at Corinthian Hall, June 21, 1854.

GENTLEMEN OFFICERS AND FELLOW SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812 :

Nearly half a century has rolled away since last we met upon the tented field, amid the clangor of war and din of battle, in defence of our Common Country.— This day we are permitted by the blessing of Almighty God, to re-assemble, greet our old companions in arms, and recount the events of that day, and to adopt such measures as the history of those events, and the well

being of ourselves, our families, and our country shall seem to require.

In the discharge of these duties the mind naturally recurs to the scenes of that war and to the causes which impelled the American Congress to its declaration.

The prowess and valor of our forefathers had wrung from the Mother Country, an unwilling recognition of the independence of her transatlantic Colonies and from that day down to the declaration of the war of 1812, she regarded us as offending children, who had been cast off because we could not be controlled and yet were too weak in our collective capacity to assume the importance and dignity of an independent Nation; and who therefore might be treated with any sort of contumely and oppression, which the offended parent might in its caprice or anger, think proper to impose; and which resulted in a systematic and continued course of oppression and abuse, that could no longer be borne, and was only arrested by the declaration of that war, in which we were all engaged, and in which some of you bore so conspicuous a part.

Foremost among these causes, was the frequent insult offered to our flag and to our citizens in foreign ports, but especially the outrage upon our rights by the search of American Vessels, and the impressment into their own service, of American seamen.

Taught by history, and the recollection of the horrors of our revolutionary struggle, and regarding war as a great evil, we first had recourse to a remonstrance and negotiation: and finding these unavailing, an appeal to arms was our only alternative.

The history of the war which followed, and which commenced in 1812 and was closed by a treaty of peace in 1815, will bear testimony to the success of that appeal, and to its subduing and humbling effect upon the proud and arrogant nation with whom

we were engaged; and who from that day to the present time, with a few exceptions, has not failed to treat us either in our individual or collective capacity, with all the respect due to a great and powerful nation; and whom at this moment she is proud to recognize as friends, and whose aid in the event of danger from other powers, she would first invoke.

A like effect has by that war been produced upon all other civilized nations; and from the declaration of the Peace of 1815, to the present time, our Glorious stripes and Stars have commanded respect and admiration in every sea and in every quarter of the Globe, as Emblems of a great and powerful nation, jealous of her rights and ever ready, and able to maintain them.

As a necessary result of this glorious triumph, our country has since moved on with unexampled prosperity; her borders vastly extended—her population largely increased—her resources extensively developed—her citizens by a judicious and liberal system of education, greatly elevated in the scale of human existence and our beloved country, at this blessed moment, now stands forth in the foreground and in bold relief, as one of the freest, happiest, most prosperous and powerful nations of the Earth.

Such, fellow Citizens, are some of the achievements resulting from the war of 1812, and in which you were patriotically and heroically engaged, and such the results of devotion to your country.

These are grateful reflections, and such as will ever flow from a discharge of duty.—But while it is true that “merit carries with it its own reward,” it does not, therefore, follow that, in the case now under consideration there are no correlative obligations resting upon the government.

From the earliest organization of governments to the present time, it has

been the habit of all nations, whether savage or civilized, to reward in some suitable manner, those who had rendered important services to their country.

Our's has followed the high example. The soldier of the Revolution, though paid off in Continental worthless funds, and which to our eternal shame and disgrace have never been redeemed, were rewarded by large grants of rich and valuable land, some of which have descended to their children and now constitute a rich inheritance; while others, and by far the greater part, were sold by the poor Soldier, (whose necessities occasioned by the total worthlessness of his continental money, and which he had received as his monthly pay in an eight years' war,) constrained him to sell "for a mess of pottage!" Let this be remembered, and let us pray God that although we cannot reach them in their graves, that justice may yet be done to their descendants.

But honors were decreed, and grants of land were made, not only to the Soldiers of the Revolutionary war, but to those also of the war of 1812, who had served for a certain period. But there is another and a large class who inhabited the borders of the country, and who were frequently called out in its defence, called out to repel invasions, and for whom no allowance has ever been made; because no one period of service reached the limit established by the act making the grant. Of this, you have a right, and of this, *we do complain.*

In case of an invasion, which is always sudden and temporary, what is it that constitutes the defence of the invaded territory? It is the prompt exhibition of force; it is readiness to repel; and, in case of battle resulting from such invasion, what is the difference in risk of life or limb, whether such battle be fought by the Soldier of six months, or who has enlisted du-

ring the war, or him who is summoned or has volunteered for the occasion?

There is a difference, but that difference is in favor of the latter class; because he fights without the arms — without the equipments and without the skill and the science of the well-drilled, regular soldier; and if a distinction be made either way, therefore, it should be made in his favor. And yet, under the existing laws of the country, he is entirely overlooked by his government; nay, with the danger passed, he is unceremoniously dismissed without reward. The injustice of this, is too palpable to require argument.

Be it our duty, then, fellow soldiers, while we hold ourselves at all times ready to defend the rights of the nation, to defend also our own rights; and if it be right to make these grants to the one class, let us see that the border settler, who is therefore the most harassed and most exposed by war, that the minute man, who sleeps upon his arms and who is liable to be summoned at any moment, be not overlooked. You and I may not need this bounty; still we should regard it as a grateful remembrance from our country, and as such, should value it. But more than all, we object to partiality, we insist upon "fair play." As constituent members of this nation, we all have an interest in the public domain, and while we do not claim its distribution for these objects, we do insist, if that policy is to be adopted and pursued, it shall be impartially done. *So much we do and so much we will insist upon.*

Our government is rich in lands — more than fourteen hundred millions of acres are at its disposal — it is liberal in its gifts to individuals and to companies. Vast grants are continually being made by Congress, and at its present session it proposes to give as a bounty to the actual settler, 160 acres, although that settler may be a

foreigner, not a week in the country, provided he has declared his intention to become a citizen; and yet, withholds its bounty from native born Americans who have always resided here, have cheerfully borne its burdens and repeatedly periled their lives in its defence!

We complain also that the law of 1850 did not do justice to the soldier of 1812, who served for a less period than one year.

In view of the extent of our public domain, the grant of forty acres of land, is a miserable pittance to the soldier who periled his life in defence of his country.

The soldier of the late war with Mexico, which added so much to our public domain and reflected so much glory upon our arms, received as a bounty 160 acres of land and \$160 in cash, none of them for a long period of service; some of them for a period exceedingly brief, and many of them who never saw the enemy's country, or even left their own homes,—while the soldier of 1812, after a lapse of 40 years, is turned off with only 40 acres and no cash bounty.

The soldiers of the Revolutionary war, who received a bounty of 640 acres, have been for many years on the Pension Roll, with an allowance, if not liberal, sufficient to keep them from the Poor House—to keep them from starvation; while no such provision has ever been made, for the Soldiers of 1812; many of whom, have already died in abject poverty; and still more have been and at this moment are supported, by private or public charities. We have now some of them lodged in the Poor House of our own county, and this too, while the treasury of the nation is full to overflowing, to an extent that leads to disgusting scrambles among the States for its distribution, or is squandered upon unworthy if not unconstitutional objects—and at this moment seeks an invest-

ment of no less sum than one hundred millions, in foreign territory.—the acquisition of which would in all probability, involve us in a war that would cost us twice as much more.

Of all of this we do complain as *partial, illiberal, unfair and unjust.*—We complain of it, as an instance of neglect by the government of its citizens, which is without a parallel.—Even among the rotten monarchies of the Old World, who, whatever else they may do, never forget the Officers and Soldiers of their armies, or leave them in their old age to subsist as public paupers, or perish by neglect.

Oh, how did I blush for my country, while visiting the Hotel of Invalids in France, a few years since, on seeing the Veterans of their wars, well fed, clothed, in magnificent quarters, located in one of the most pleasant places of the beautiful city of Paris; while our own, neglected by their government, were perishing by the way side, or being sustained as public paupers, in the Alms Houses of our country!

With such examples before us, well may it be said, that Republics are indeed ungrateful!

Fellow Soldiers, the remedy is in your own hands. When you return to your homes, tell the story of your wrongs to your children and to your children's children. Unite with them in telling it to the Congress, to the government of the nation. *Carry its recollection with you to the Ballot Boxes*, and justice will no longer be withheld.

But, fellow Soldiers, while we thus remember our own wrongs and resolve to redress our own grievances, let us not be unmindful of

THE POOR INDIAN,

who stood at our side in times of peril, and battled with us in defence of our rights, and who by invitation, take part with us, in the proceedings of this day.

If we have claims, their's are an hundred fold stronger. If we have cause of complaint, they have a thousand to our one. In the first place, they are the aboriginies of the country—the natural Lords of its soil, holding their Patents—their title Deeds, from the Great Jehovah.

In many instances we have wrested that country from them by chicanery, fraud, force and violence. Their vast hunting grounds of interminable extent and over which they roamed in the primitive simplicity and noble daring of their nature, have been circumscribed, to a few thousand acres, and from Lords of the soil, they have been reduced to a state of miserable pillage; while the introduction of "*Fire water*" has made fearful inroads into their numbers, and opened an easy-way for all the vices of the white man. No obligation whatever therefore, rests upon them, to defend a country thus wrongfully and violently torn from them, nor a people, by whom they have been so basely and rudely treated—and yet, when in course of the war of 1812 Great Britain thought proper to employ her Savage allies, and our government appealed to the Red men of our country for protection from the Tomhawk and Scalping Knife of the Canadian Indians, most readily did they respond to that call and rush to the rescue—and I rejoice to say, that none more readily and efficiently, than did our brethren from the Onondaga tribe. Although a stripling at the time, well do I remember the stirring scenes of that day.—That great and natural orator, whose efforts would compare favorably with the most eloquent men of either ancient or modern times, the immortal Red Jacket, was the first to move under that call—coming down from the western bounds of the State where he resided, accompanied by a delegation from his own tribe, he passed through the different tribes in the

west, summoning them to arms and requiring each to turn out its quota of warriors; and in this way he arrived at Onondaga Valley. Resting his men in a green field, at the junction of the old turnpike and the road leading to the Onondaga Castle, he from this point sent swift footed messengers, to the Onondagas to apprise them of his approach and the object of his visit.

In a short time they returned, accompanied by a strong delegation from the braves of that tribe. It was my good fortune to be seated with Red Jacket and his party on the green sward at the moment of their arrival, and never shall I forget the scene which followed. Red Jacket arose, and after a hasty salutation, resting himself against the rail fence that surrounded the field, with his hands locked, his legs crossed in easy attitude—his head bowed down, in a deep sepulchral tone of voice, he commenced addressing them;—soon however, he became more animated—his hands unclasped—his head raised—his voice louder and his keen eye flashing fire, he stood forth erect in his manly form, in all the lofty wildness and grandeur so peculiar to the Indian character, and which was ever so beautifully illustrated in that wonderful chief.

Deeply excited by his subject, his gesticulation became frequent, animated and violent—while his voice, elevated to a still higher pitch, rang in trumpet tones, and aroused the deepest feeling of his savage auditors, as was evident from their frequent and hasty ejaculatory responses. Its effect was indeed electrifying, even upon those who did not understand the language, and the result was, at the conclusion of his appeal, the question being taken whether the Onondagas would furnish their quota of men for the service, it was carried by acclamation, and the next day that quota were on their march to the Niagara frontier.

I well remember their wild and

warlike appearance, as they passed through the Village, and how the citizens and school boys cheered them on their way.

The storm of war was then hovering over that frontier, and a few days brought us an account of the battle of Quenston, and of the feats of desperate courage and noble daring, performed by the Onondaga Braves.

A few days more brought home the wounded of that party. I shall never forget their changed and sorrowful appearance, as they were borne in litters on the shoulders of their brave companions to their quiet forest home—nor shall I forget, the awful havoc which was made by a more subtle foe, (the small pox) which was contracted in Canada, and brought back by the war party, on its return. The disease was a new one, and before the whites had heard of its existence, it had nearly decimated their number.

It is under such circumstances that the question is presented, whether these men, many of whom I recognize here to day, then young and vigorous, but now in the sear and yellow leaf—these Sons of the forest—these original Lords of the soil—whom we have spoiled of their inheritance and whom notwithstanding our abuse of them have freely poured out their blood and laid down their lives in our defence, and in our behalf—whether these men shall not share alike with us in the bounty which we claim.

Fellow Soldiers, I know too well your sense of justice—I understand too well, your hearts, to doubt for a moment your reply, that reply will be an unanimous, hearty, nay *vehement affirmative*.

Give back to the Red Man a few acres of his own land, which have been by fraud and force taken from him, will be your reply—and would to God that by so doing, we could wipe out from the otherwise fair Escutcheon of our country the foul stain which our in-

justice to them, has stamped upon it.

If nations are to be brought into judgment for national sins,—if a just God presides over the conduct and affairs of men, awful, most awful, is the account which we are yet to render for wrongs and outrages committed on the Indian and African race—and well may we tremble, in view of that punishment which awaits us, at the hand of a just and offended God—and depend upon it, that sooner or later, and I fear at no distant day, that punishment will come.

Having thus taken a general view of the main subject which has called us together, let us for a moment, indulge in a few passing reflections upon the blessings which surround us, and upon the evils which have gradually and subtly stolen into, and are corrupting and as a canker worm eating into and destroying our social and political systems, in order that we may apply the corrective, and save those systems from further pollution and danger as we have, and will still do, our country from foreign aggression.

But of these, having already occupied so much of your time, we can only take a glancing view.

Of our blessings—they have been by an all Merciful God, thrown broad-cast upon our common country.

When we take a view of that country, of its great extent reaching almost from the frigid to the torrid zone and extending east and west from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, embracing almost every description of climate and yielding almost every variety of production known to the inhabitable globe, the fertility of its soil—the energy and enterprise of our rapidly increasing population, and above all, the character of our free government and its liberal and liberalizing institutions, with what gratitude and adoration should we lift our eyes to our Heavenly Father, for so many, and such distinguished blessings; and with what renewed

vows should we swear, upon the altar of our country, that with His assistance, *they shall be preserved*—and so far as we are concerned, fellow Soldiers, whether our country shall or shall not do us justice, let us so swear! But we are beset by evils which endanger our social and political systems.

Prominent among the former, is the irreligion, the extravagance, the wickedness of the times.

By irreligion, I do not mean the neglect of any particular creed, (of which we have quite too many) but a neglect of all creeds, a forgetfulness and neglect of Him to whom we are indebted for every enjoyment and every blessing, which have been showered down upon us, in such wonderful profusion.

In our modes of living, we are extravagant beyond bounds and beyond all past experience.—Our individual wealth constitutes, collectively, the wealth of the nation, and if we individually therefore squander our wealth we impoverish the nation; to say nothing of its vitiating and demoralizing tendency, we are called upon as patriots, as lovers of our country, to see to this, and to apply the pruning hand. We are intemperate in all things—in intemperate in our aspirations—in our diet—in our drink and in all our enjoyments—and these be it remembered in our collective capacity, while they injure us individually, reflect themselves upon, and go to make up the character of the nation—these as patriots therefore—as well wishers of society, we are bound to the extent of our power to correct.

I have said our political system is in danger—we have not time to enumerate them all—but prominent among them is, the corruption of the *elective franchise*, demagoguism and political dishonesty. Our primary assemblies for nominating our public men and officers, are corrupted by unprincipled politicians and aspirants to

office.

In theory, the people select their public servants, and vote for only such men as they prefer. And yet how often it happens, that the conventions for making nominations, are packed by designing unprincipled aspirants, whose names through that agency are presented for the suffrages of the electors, instead of others whom, if left to their own choice, they would prefer; and the result is, the election of bad and unprincipled men to office, who possess neither talent nor integrity and who when thus elevated wield their official power for the promotion of their own interest, instead of the public good. This, which is followed up with the free use of money, at the polls, is a great and crying evil, which has brought upon us most of our difficulties, and which if not arrested, will ultimately sap the very foundation of the elective franchise, upon which is based our whole political fabric.

This great and growing evil, may be corrected, by attention to your primary meetings—by self nominations or by calling out such candidates as the people may prefer, and sustaining them at the polls. The remedy, in a word, is in your own hands, and the highest considerations of duty and patriotism require you to apply it.—Eschewing political distinctions which are not based upon principle, in the selection of our candidates, let us hereafter, *know nothing but the elevation of our best men, and the good of our country.*

In conclusion—in view of the great interests committed to our hands, as citizens and as Soldiers, let us watch with a jealous eye over every interest of our country, both domestic and foreign. Let us endeavor to elevate, improve and benefit our race, and while we cultivate the principles of peace and good will towards men, let us be ready at all times in case of domestic

faction or foreign aggression, to maintain the laws, institutions and rights of our country, peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must. Remembering that while we regard war as a great evil, that there are greater evils still than it; and that while we will cultivate the principles of peace, we will ever hold ourselves ready to take up arms and rush to battle, in defence of either the honor or liberty of our beloved country. And let us transmit unimpaired to posterity, the rich inheritance which our Fathers purchased with their blood, and committed to our hands for safe keeping; that when our time of service here below shall be finished, we may claim the rich promised bounty, and the benediction of our Heavenly Father.—“Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord,” where, being enlisted in His service and enrolled under His Banner, and joining the Ranks of the countless Host of spirits of the just made perfect, who have gone before us, we may spend, far off in the spirit Land, a never ending and blissful eternity, in celebrating the praises and in adoration of Him who sitteth upon the Throne, high in the Heavens, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, forever and ever. And may God Almighty grant, that such may be the fate of our beloved Country, and such our own future and happy destiny.

The Indians were then invited to select one of their number to address the Convention,

Mr. HENRY JORDAN, an Indian of the Oneida tribe made some remarks upon the neglect with which the whites and the government have treated their services.

Three cheers were then given for the Indians.

By request the Indians were gathered together, and the shrill War Whoop three times given and responded to by them, in true Indian style.

Three cheers were then given in return.

It having been suggested to the Convention, by the President, that as General BEXSON and Col. OLDS, had incurred expenses amounting to several hundred dollars, in making arrangements for the Convention, a collection should be taken to assist in defraying the same,

The sum of \$89 55 was contributed by the present, for this purpose.

(This fact illustrates the comparative poverty of those who now appeal to the justice of their Country, or a proper acknowledgment of their services.)

Gen. VAN RENSSELAER, then, on behalf of Gen. BEXSON, returned thanks to the members present and bade them an affectionate farewell.

Major PECK offered the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Resolved—That this Convention while making provision for the surviving veterans, are not unmindful of the gallant dead, who have fallen on Foreign Soil; do therefore earnestly appeal to Congress, to take immediate steps for securing suitable burial places in foreign countries.

At the close of the proceedings of the Convention the interesting ceremony of initiating Gen. E. W. BEXSON into the Brotherhood of the Six Nations was performed. A Council of the representatives of the Six Nations was held in the back part of the Hall, and a new name for General BEXSON agreed upon. The ceremony occupied only a few minutes, and the remarks made by the principal Chief, were interpreted to the Convention by an educated Indian.—They consisted of a simple statement that the representatives of Six Nations there assembled were warriors in 1812, and as Gen. BEXSON had been a brave and lucky man they would receive him as a brother warrior. The ceremony was concluded by marching back and forth on the platform, singing a sort of half spoken dirge, which was responded to by several warriors in the back part of the room, and at the conclusion, all spoke the new name of the initiated brother in concert. As near as we could understand, the name is “ON-WEN-JA-KWE-GON”—and its interpretation is “Whole World.”

Thus ended the most interesting Convention ever held in the “City of Conventions,” and in many respects it was such a meeting as the citizens will never see again.

Convention adjourned *sine die*.

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